Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) There has been no assault of any kind.

(b) i. A report of what transpired to be rude behaviour on the part of the officer concerned was received by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

ii. The officer was reported to the Government for punishment.

(c) No public interest is served by publishing this correspondence.

The supply of drinking water in Nemmara.

434. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(1) why they have stopped the distribution of drinking water in Nemmara, especially this year, when there had been no normal rainfall;

(2) why they have removed the engine from the site;

(3) whether they will be pleased to make arrangements for water distribution from the middle of Kumbham?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) The Government are making permanent arrangements for supplying water to Nemmara. The works are not yet complete.

(2) The Boring Plant was wanted elsewhere.

(3) It is not possible.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Has the Government been able to give water since?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. I was able to start the engine on Sunday last.

The inconvenience to the public by collecting metals, etc., on the sides of the roads.

435. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware of the hardship and inconvenience caused to the public by the collection of metals for repair on the sides of the roads for about 6 months in the year;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what steps they have taken or propose to take to remove the inconvenience;

(c) whether they are aware of the danger and inconvenience caused to the public by the existence of the large number of Irish drains in the public roads;

(d) if the answer is in the affirmative, what steps they have taken or propose to take to remove them?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) As a rule, metal for renewals is collected only for about one fifth of the length of any road in a year. Metal for repairs does not present any real inconvenience, as there will be only one or two heaps in a furlong.

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(b) Contractors are instructed to collect metal outside the road margins wherever possible, and the department takes pains to see that they follow these instructions. In some places this is not however possible, and some inconvenience is inevitable.

(c) Yes. The Government is aware of the inconvenience caused to the public on account of Irish drains on roads.

(d) The Government are fast replacing them by good culverts every year.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I know the total length of the roads that is proposed to be renewed this year ?

President.—Is that a supplementary question ? From what answer does it arise ?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Yes. From the first answer. I want to know of what length this 1/5 of the road is, in figures, approximately ?

President.—That is the usual rule. It will depend upon the length of the various roads. Suppose it is 20 miles for one road, then 1/5 will be 4 ; if it is 30 miles, it is 6, and so on.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I know what is the total length of the metalled roads in the Cochin State ?

President.— 500, I think.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I take it that 1/5 of the length of the roads is proposed to be renewed this year ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Approximately.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Are not metals collected on those roads ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—What is the average length of the heaps in one furlong ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—350 feet to 450 feet.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warair.—Is there sufficient space left for two carriages to cross each other in places where the metals are collected ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In most cases there is space left. But in places, for example, on embankments, there is not sufficient space, but we can always cross, if we look into places where we have space.

President.—Two carriages can go abreast.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon—I have been travelling on many of the roads, and I find it very easy to pass.

President.—It might be that when you travelled, no carriage came from the opposite direction.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I used to have carriages from the opposite side.

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Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—There are many places where the carriages cannot pass one another.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is quite true. If you wait a little bit and allow the other carriage to pass, it is very easy.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Carriages also tumble down.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is no obstruction.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I know why it is not possible to collect the materials outside the road margins in some places ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They may be private properties.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—Has the Government bestowed any thought on the suggestion made in the last budget session to take out leases of lands for the collection of the metal on the sides of the roads?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have considered that, and we find that nothing further than what we do now is necessary.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I know what stood in the way of the Government in taking up leases of bits of lands from the sides of the roads for the collection of the metal in order to remove the inconvenience ; the pin-pricks, as we call it ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Government thought that the additional expenditure to be incurred is not in proportion to the advantage to be derived.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I know what is the amount that would come to for taking out leases of lands? Has the Government made any estimate for that purpose ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have not made any accurate estimate, but on examination the cost is prohibitive.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—May I know what the Government thought it would come to if they were to take leases of lands ? My object is only to know whether the amount is a big one or a small one, and whether the Government can afford to make that sacrifice for the convenience of the public.

President.—The question is whether there is any inconvenience felt.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—There is a great deal of inconvenience. Otherwise, I would not have been standing before this House for asking these questions.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The inconvenience is caused only in places where we have embank-

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ments. Embankments are so high. Often the metal will have to be thrown down, and there is difficulty to take it up.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There are other places. I have my own experience, in Palghat. In so many places the roads are so very narrow.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Two carriages cannot pass each other. Even one carriage can pass only with much difficulty.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Not only in the Cochin State. In British India also, this is the case.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—That is no reason why we should not make ourselves comfortable here.

President.—Have they similar arrangements?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The only remedy will be to acquire the lands on either side and raise them to the lend of the embankments. For that it will take time.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—This is not merely in the case of embankments but also in the case of other places.

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—In most places there are sufficient margins.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—That is mainly due to the carelessness of the contractor and the want of supervision by the maistries.

President.—Sometimes, they collect the metal on a part of the road itself, so that there will not be sufficient space for two carriages to pass.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Generally, I issue instructions to the contractors not to collect metal on roads, if there is not sufficient space left on either side of the drains. If the contractors disregard these instructions, we invariably fine them and punish them for this.

President.—It is just to draw attention to this that the Member brought this question.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Many of the contractors, though they know that they will get some kind of punishment, still collect metal on the road itself, wherever they could collect it. This fact should be impressed upon the Government.

President.—The subordinates of the D. P. W. should be asked to take particular care, as you are in charge of the road maintenance, Mr. Aravindaksha Menon.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are fully alive to the conditions, and we are doing all that is possible under the circumstances to remedy them.

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